

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 141223Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7452

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI, FI

SUBJECT: NEW FINNISH APPEAL FOR MODERATION IN CHILE

1. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN AND THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT SENT AN APPEAL ON MAY 11 TO THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT ASKING THAT DEATH SENTENCES NOT BE IMPOSED IN THE TRIALS TO BE CONDUCTED AGAINST ITS POLITICAL OPPONENTS. NOTING THE DEEP ANXIETY IN FINLAND OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE, THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT APPEALED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE TO LIVE UP TO CHILE'S HISTORIC TRADITION OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND NOT IMPOSE DEATH SENTENCES OR REFRAIN FROM CARRYING THEM OUT.

2. KEKKONEN'S ACTION WAS LINKED IN THE FINNISH PRESS WITH THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE FINNISH PEACE DEFENDERS, A COMMUNIST-FRONT ORGANIZATION WHICH IN FINLAND'S UNIQUE POLITICAL SITUATION RECEIVES PERIODIC RECOGNITION FROM THE
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GOVERNMENT. KEKKONEN WAS PATRON OF THE CELEBRATIONS AND PRESENT

AT THE OPENING CEREMONY. THE APPEAL WAS IN FACT, HOWEVER, THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF NOTES THE FINNISH AND CHILEAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE EXCHANGED SINCE THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT FORMALLY PROTESTED THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THE SELF-STYLED INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE CRIMES OF THE MILITARY JUNTA IN CHILE HELD IN HELSINKI FROM MARCH 21 - MARCH 24. THE FINNS USED THE NEWS OF THE NEW TRIALS AS A VEHICLE FOR AVOIDING A DIRECT RESPONSE TO CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THE TRIBUNAL AND EMPHASIZED THEIR PRINCIPAL CONCERN THAT THE JUNTA OBSERVE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY DETECTED SOME SOFTENING OF THE CHILEAN POSITION IN THE JUNTA'S SECOND NOTE, RECEIVED BY THE FINNS ON MAY 8. THEY HOPE THE ISSUE WILL NOW BE ALLOWED TO LAPSE. THE FINNS ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF SEVERAL REFUGEES STILL UNDER THEIR PROTECTION IN SANTIAGO, AND WISH TO AVOID A BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH THE JUNTA.

3. AS STATED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S NOTE THERE IS CONTINUING "DEEP ANXIETY" IN FINLAND OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE. THE PEACE DEFENDERS MEETING SENT ITS OWN APPEAL TO THE JUNTA ALTHOUGH CHILE WAS NOT A FEATURED ITEM ON THEIR AGENDA. YESTERDAY, MAY 13, HALF OF THE 200 MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH PARLIAMENT SIGNED TELEGRAMS TO THE JUNTA AND TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM DEMANDING THAT FOREIGN LAWYERS BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRIALS AS DEFENSE ATTORNEYS AND THAT THE UN TAKE STEPS TO INSURE THAT THE TRIALS ACCORD WITH THE WORLD-WIDE CONCEPT OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS.
KREHBIEL

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